the latest ISSUE

volume five
issue eight

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Tight Jeans and Heels: Confessions of a "Real" Gay American Cowboy

Page 7

SACRAMENTO'S NEWS MAGAZINE FOR THE GAY COMMUNITY AND ITS FRIENDS

Judi Parks

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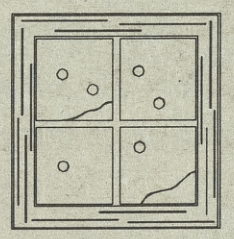

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Questioning AIDS Action League

Editor,

Here come the holidays and, or course, here come -- in even greater numbers than usual -- canvassers from the AIDS Action League, a group of individuals who solicit by telephone and go door to door for donations "to combat AIDS in Sacramento."

This group has yet to respond to the scrutiny they've been under since their creation a few years back. They run a house in Sacramento called "Families Too" that is open to women with AIDS, but an investigation last year by the Stockton Record added to local concerns about their questionable financial management practices. The Record reported that little more than 30 percent of AAL's revenues go toward the house, with the bulk of donations paying the salaries of managers and canvassers.

Last year's annual report put out by AAL says "our community outreach workers were paid $310 per week for their hard work and dedication to stopping the spread of HIV disease. The largest executive salary was $600 per week." (That's $16,000 per year for solicitors, and at least one salary of $31,000.)

The Sacramento Health Council reported last year to the County Board of Supervisors that it's unclear if the home is, in fact, open and operational. Sacramento AIDS service officials have yet to obtain a clarification of these questions from AAL management despite repeated requests, and as such, continue to withhold their support of AAL or sanction its activities in any way.

Citizens of Sacramento, San Joaquin, and other nearby counties where AAL's canvassers work, sometimes without a license, may be well advised to exercise extreme caution in donating to AAL, as well as in donating in their time to the league's efforts, or supporting fund-raisers given on their behalf.

Sincerely,
Sonya Cox

Thanks for the Art Coverage

Editor,

Thank you for all the support *the latest ISSUE* has dedicated to Sacramento's Art Scene.

D. Oldham's art columns are always refreshing and informative. We at the Lite Rail Gallery thank all the recent, positive reviews and exhibition listings *the latest ISSUE* has faithfully published.

Keep up the fantastic work D., and thank you *latest ISSUE* staff for great journalism.

With much friendship,
Michael Xepoleas

Be All That You Can Be...

Editor,

I recently received a Navy recruiting brochure featuring the statement "In the Navy, there are unlimited opportunities to do things you can only dream about as a civilian doctor."

My written reply? "... and a civilian doctor has opportunities to do things a Navy doctor can only dream about...write me when you have ended your discrimination against lesbians and gays."

May we ALL continue to be All that WE can be.

Paula Carmichael, M.D.

The Beating of ACT UP

Editor,

I was appalled to read about the beating of ACT UP demonstrators at the State Capitol in October.

It is our right as citizens of this state to peacefully demonstrate our disagreement with the policies of the government. By the look of the photo that accompanied the article in the November ISSUE, one police officer was being held back so he wouldn't inflict additional damage on the activists.

Some people in this community feel that if ACT UP is beaten, they deserved it. Some people in society believe that if people have AIDS -- they deserve it.

To be outraged is normal, to sit and judge the actions of those affected by this devastating disease is offensive.

We must stand together. We must make our voices heard. And we must support each other in surviving this epidemic.

Amelia O'Donnell

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The latest ISSUE welcomes letters on any subject. Be sure to include your name and phone number for verificaion. We will not print your name if you wish to remain anonymous.

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AROUND TOWN

Supervisor Seat Up For Grabs - Fargo Running

by **Stan Carlsen**

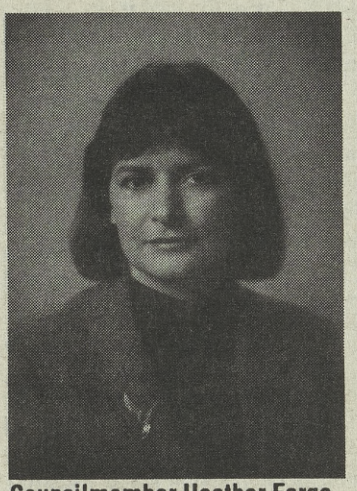
We all know that high-energy shopping takes priority over other interests and activities this month, but gay and lesbian voters who live in the central city should devote some attention to the upcoming election for County Supervisor.

Three days after Christmas there will be a special election held to fill the District 1 Supervisorial seat left open when Grantland Johnson accepted an appointment with the Clinton administration in Washington.

There are six candidates running for the seat, one of whom is Heather Fargo-- a gay-friendly voice on the City Council since 1989. She actively supported the Domestic Partnership Ordinance authored by Mayor Ann Rudin in 1992. She also has received the Lambda Center's "Building Bridges" award for the past two years.

As a resident of South Natomas, Fargo will be running against Roger Dickinson of Woodlake, Pat Borin of Robla, Erthia Johnson of Strawberry Manor, and Sally Hudson and Vincent Harris both of Natomas. Fargo is the only candidate with a public record of dealing with the gay and lesbian community -- all of it positive.

"I have always been confortable with my gay and lesbian friends and the community. They are a natural constituency for me," says Fargo.



Councilmember Heather Fargo.

Fargo has 'been there' for our community on a number of occasions. When Vinnie Blades was murdered in 1990, she pushed the police to categorize the incident as a hate crime and to add more patrols to the Midtown area.

When the 'sting' at the gay beach and Miller Park was initiated by police to deter public sex, Fargo brought in leaders from the gay and lesbian community to work with the police to develop strategies that were both acceptable and respectful.

Fargo is a familiar face to all those involved in CAP-PAC and RCDC, having attended their annual dinners since 1989. Both organizations have endorsed her candidacy.

Major issues that will be focused on by Fargo in the race for County Supervisor will be: public safety, economic development, and neighborhoods.

If no single candidate receives 50% of the December 28 vote, there will be a run-off election on January 25.

"I feel real good about my chances of winning, but no matter what happens," says Fargo, "I will still be an outspoken advocate."

"You make decisions all day but none could be this good!"

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Holiday Happenings in Sacramento

A Season of Diversity

The Sacramento Men's Chorus presents "A Season of Diversity" their holiday winter concert. The performance will take you on a journey through this extraordinary season; a season whose focus is so diverse as to be simultaneously religious and secular, spiritual and human, ethnic and familiar, communal and personal; a season whose focus is on family - chosen and biological.

The concert begins with "Winter - freedom from hardness and coldness of heart" and includes the Sondheim piece "Into The Woods". "Chanukah - freedom of expression" follows and just before intermission "Aspects of Christmas I - The Freedom to Love" that includes musical selections in French and Spanish.

After the intermission the concert highlights "The New Year - Freedom of Renewal and Change", "Kwanzaa - freedom to be different" and "Aspects of Christmas II - freedom to give" with festive songs like "A Jules Styne Christmas", "Two Gay Carols" and "Christmas Is Delicious."

The concert will be held on Saturday, Dec.18 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 19 at 3 p.m. at St. Francis Church on 26th and K Streets in Sacramento.

Tickets are available at the The Gifted Gardener (2122 J Street), and the Howe Avenue Box Office (925 Howe Avenue).

For further information about the concert, contact The Men's Chorus at 444-5213.

MCC to Feed Hundreds

The Metropolitan Community Church fed more than 450 on Thanksgiving and according to Rev. Ed Sherriff, "We will be feeding even more for Christmas."

Thanks to alliances with Loaves and Fishes, MCC isn't in need of turkey for the meal, but could use several other items for the holiday hungry.

"We can always use paper plates, napkins and utensils," said Rev. Sherriff, "condiments, salt and pepper and pies."

To make a monitary donation to the MCC Food Program, send checks to: P.O. 5912, Sacramento, 95817. To donate other items, bring them to the Out of the Closet Boutique located at 3400 Broadway.

Stocking Stuffers at UC Med Center

The 4th Annual Stocking Stuffers Show to benefit people with AIDS in Sacramento will be at the UC Davis Medical Center, Dec. 18 at 1 p.m.

The show is free, but donations of "Stocking Stuffers" of personal items such as Kleenex, toothpaste, mouthwash are greatly appreciated. For more info contact Steve Ermis at 448-7798.

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GAY AND LESBIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

Tight Jeans and Heels:

Confessions of a Real Rodeo Cowboy

by **Michael R. Gorman**

His home in Sacramento is meticulously and beautifully decorated and furnished in a minimalist fashion. He is a solicitous host, and he makes the spinach dip himself. When he is not entertaining his small circle of friends, he spends time flailing atop a 1000 pound bull or wrestling a steer to the ground.

His championship belt buckle could double as a silver dessert tray. He is 5'9" in heels (cowboy boots), powerfully built and sporting two diamond studs in his left ear. He is proudly gay in a profession that epitomizes the American vision of macho manhood.

If descriptions of Mike Biggs seem to embody paradox, seeming contradictions, then perhaps he is truly suited for representing the American Cowboy, that most enigmatic of cultural icons.

> The first gay rodeo of the 1994 season will be in Phoenix Arizona in January.

Biggs, a Montana rancher transplanted to Sacramento, explains that there are real cowboys and there are pretenders.

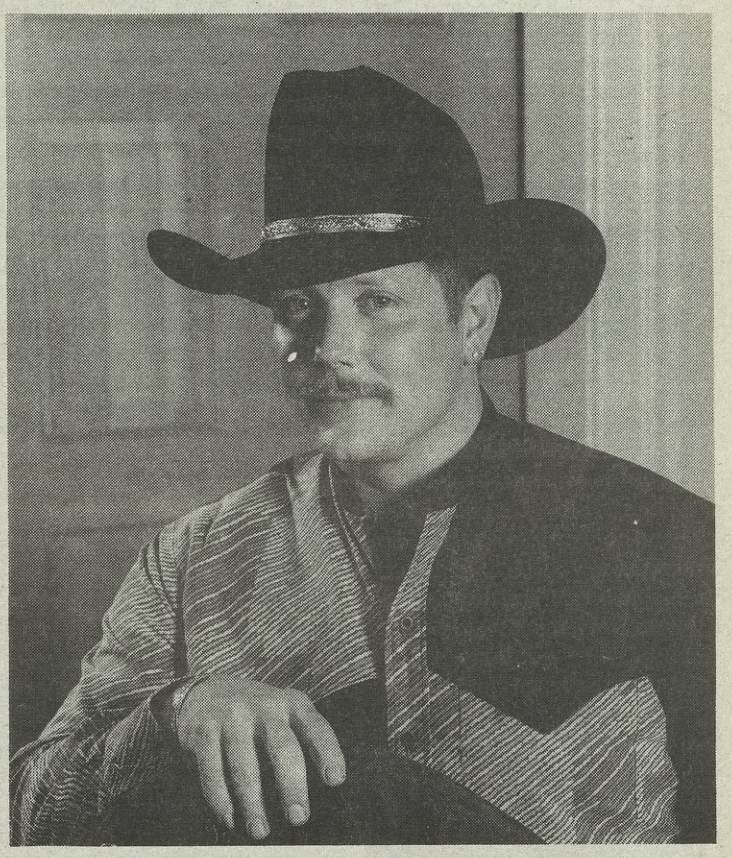
Real cowboys are more multidimensional. They have a shyness and a nagging distrust of urban ways that frequently make social situations intimidating. There is a spiritual side of them that is connected like a saddle to the land and to their animals and to each other. They share a camaraderie that few of them can put into words.

They are one part brazen hero, one part prankster rebel, and one part lonely outsider. Despite their bravado, talking about themselves can be a source of extreme fear and trembling.

Mike Biggs laughed nervously at the beginning of our talk, saying that *the latest ISSUE* was the first gay newspaper to interview him. Despite his considerable success on the straight rodeo circuit, and his auspicious start on the gay rodeo circuit, he finds exposure in his own community more unnerving than in non-gay circles. Not that a cowboy finds "all the fuss" comfortable in any context.

Biggs was born in California to a family whose heritage is closely tied to the land. His mother is Cherokee Indian and Scotch-Irish and his father is Seminole Indian and German. He was raised, however, by his godmother (whom he calls Nanna), the widow of a former Italian ambassador to the United States. When he was eight years old, she asked him where he wanted to live. He was watching a television movie set in Montana at the time, and he pointed to it and said, "There!" With little delay she bought a 732 acre ranch in Montana. As he and his godmother gradually acquired horses and cattle, the spread eventually became a working ranch, securing Mike even more firmly to the land. He explained why he named the place Wolf Ranch:

"The first week we were there, I went out and found some wolf cubs in this field. I wanted one. I tried to take one home. It made these ungodly sounds when I picked it up, trying to howl and growl at the same time. I had this big, huge down jacket on. I stuffed him in my jacket. That was my first mistake; I had to get twelve stitches across my nipple. (His next comment, unfortunately, is off the record.) Needless to say, its mother did not approve. She was out foraging food. When she got back, I thought I was going to BE food. All she did was growl and show her fangs. She wanted her kid put down on the ground, and she wanted it done soon. She was in a pounce position, so I put him down. The second he got to Mom, they took off. I haven't seen any more wolves at the ranch for years."



Brian Ashby

Mike Biggs competes in the mainstream and gay rodeo circuts.

It was at the ranch that Mike, at age 14, first began riding in the Junior Rodeo as a hobby. After a sometimes idyllic, sometimes rambunctious childhood, he left the ranch to join the Army and pursue a career in federal law enforcement. He later moved to Washington State where he came out of the closet in the arms of his police partner Paul, who then became his lover. On the job they were known for their toughness ("officers friendly, the cruiser from

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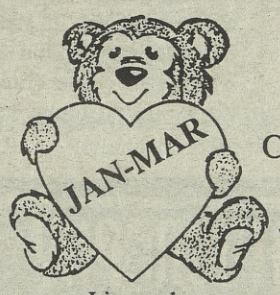

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COWBOY

continued from page 7

hell"), especially after they arrested a cop killer during a storm. They both began riding pro rodeo on weekends in 1982. When their superiors learned that they were lovers, they were assigned to separate patrol cars as any married couple would be.

In 1984, Mike was attacked and injured by a drunken driver. His lover Paul, near the same time, was led to a secluded area, attacked, and killed.

Despondent over the loss of his lover and disillusioned with police work, he developed a drug problem. He worked for a while as an agent for the United States Justice Department, but faced continual depression. He was happy only when he was playing the rodeo. Eventually he asked for help, overcame the drug dependency, left law enforcement, and accepted a job as a computer consultant and Animal Health Technician with the United States Ranchers' Association where his sexual orientation and his rodeo career are very accepted by the top management.

In 1991, with national companies sponsoring him and picking up the tab for his travels, entry fees and on-the-road living expenses, Mike became the Arizona Grand National Rodeo Champion. That was also the year he began riding the gay rodeo circuit.

This year he picked up his first sponsor for the gay rodeos, Terry Sidie, owner of Faces, Sacramento's premier dance club. "If it weren't for Terry, I could not afford to ride the gay rodeo. He's been great. He doesn't get enough credit for the support he gives to the community, things people don't even know about."

Because of the rampant homophobia in the rodeo world, Mike uses different names in the straight and gay rodeos. Asked how the straight rodeo cowboys would react if they knew he also rode the gay rodeos, he said, "I would be dead. No question. They would kill me. Literally. Gay rodeo and straight rodeo do not get along. There are other gay cowboys that compete in the straight circuit, but most of them have aliases. I use the alias in straight rodeo. It can be very lonely."

Although the comradery of the gay rodeo is more intimate and certainly safer, it is not the only reason Mike Biggs prefers the gay rodeos. He spoke proudly of the International Gay Rodeo Association's commitment to protecting the well-being of the animals involved. Straight rodeo still includes events that are potentially harmful to the animals. Gay cowboys, on the other hand, appreciate the input of the animal rights activists, and have worked hard to address their concerns. The animals are never taunted or prodded with electric prods as they are in straight rodeo. In addition, the events themselves have been altered to protect the animals.

> How would the straight cowboys react if they knew he also rode in gay rodeos... "I would be dead. No question. They would kill me."

In calf roping, the calves are not thrown to the ground and tied up. The cowboy in a gay calf roping event simply ropes the calf around the neck and stops his horse, but the calf is not jerked to a stop as in straight rodeo. The rope is tethered to the saddle horn by a cotton string. As the calf uses up the slack in the rope, the string breaks and time is called. The calf is free to keep running.

In team roping of steers, the steer wears a protective leather harness around its horns to prevent breakage of the horns as often happens in straight rodeo. Roping around the neck, which can cause choking, is a disqualifying move in gay rodeo.

In chute-dogging, the event called steer wrestling in straight rodeo, the cowboy does not rope the steer from his horse or jump down onto the animal. Instead, the cowboy goes into the chute with the steer and must maneuver the animal out of the chute and wrestle it to the ground. he may not use the horns to do so. According to Mike, "In gay rodeo, it's just a wrestling match."

For Mike Biggs, another significant difference in gay rodeo is the presence of two men, Brad Roberts of Sacramento and Craig Ross of San Jose. They are the official but volunteer medics at the gay rodeos. According to Mike, "They're the best. They go to every rodeo. They get to know everybody. They know your name. That means a lot when you're hurt. They are a part of the family." With a tone of reverence, Mike gives the two doctors the highest compliment a cowboy can give: "I consider Brad and Craig real cowboys."

The real cowboys of the International Gay Rodeo Association have added another tradition to the rodeo which sets gay rodeo apart. Every gay rodeo begins with a ceremony called "The Riderless Horse Ceremony." The centerpiece of the fifteen minute ceremony is a horse without a rider. That horse symbolizes the losses from AIDS. "It always tears the cowboys apart." In public the cowboys are supposed to maintain a stoic image. For that reason, many of them wear sunglasses during the opening to hide the tears. Some quietly slip out of the public view in order to cry. Real cowboys.

The first gay rodeo of the 1994 season will be in Phoenix Arizona on January 14-16. Fans of rodeo who would like information can call the International Gay Rodeo Association at 303-832-IGRA (4472). Or just head out to Faces on a cowboy dance night and look for the shy cowboy standing at the end of the bar. If you do, be sure to ask him about the "rigger's rings." Good ice-breaker.

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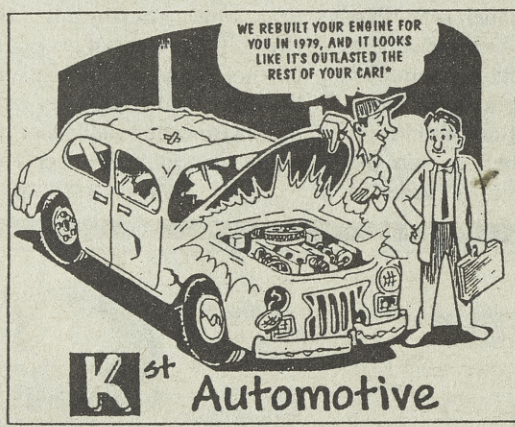

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MARTINA ON WOMEN'S TENNIS AND THE GAY MOVEMENT

IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU PLAY THE GAME

by **Miki Turner**

It's late and top-seeded Martina Navratilova has just pulled out a tough three-set match against Iva Majoli, a child nearly half her age at the Bank of the West Classic in Oakland. It is her 1,402nd victory.

Upon entering the makeshift press room with her dog, K.D., Navratilova cheerfully obliges the deadline reporters with humorous and thought-provoking responses to their redundant and sterile questions.

It's a thankless job, but Navratilova's been around long enough to remember when no one cared what she or anyone else on the women's tour had to say.

This is where Navratilova, who has announced she will retire at the end of 1994, will be missed most by the tennis world. Not only is she one of the most skillful players on the tour, she's also its most quotable.

After 20 years, 165 titles, 18 Grand Slams and more than 20 million in prize money, Navratilova still cares.

She's a relic. A dinosaur from the old days when victors were humble and losers gracious. When money was not the incentive behind all that you did. Or didn't do.

Maybe it is easier for Navratilova -- now. In her 20 years on the tour, her game and emotional life have run the gamut. She's been cheered. She's been jeered. She's been silent. She's been loud.

Navratilova's highly publicized 1991 breakup and subsequent palimony suit with Judy Nelson, her companion of seven years, left her shattered. It took a couple of years and some heavy duty therapy to put the pieces back together again.

"I had some bad dreams that I had to deal with," Navratilova said. "I guess I finally realized I hadn't dealt with the issue and that I needed some help. I dealt with the relationship and the betrayal that I felt and got into some childhood stuff. It's been very helpful. It's an ongoing thing. Whenever I feel the need I go. I need to realize why I do certain things because I really had no clue. Now I know myself a lot better and know what kind of person I should be with."

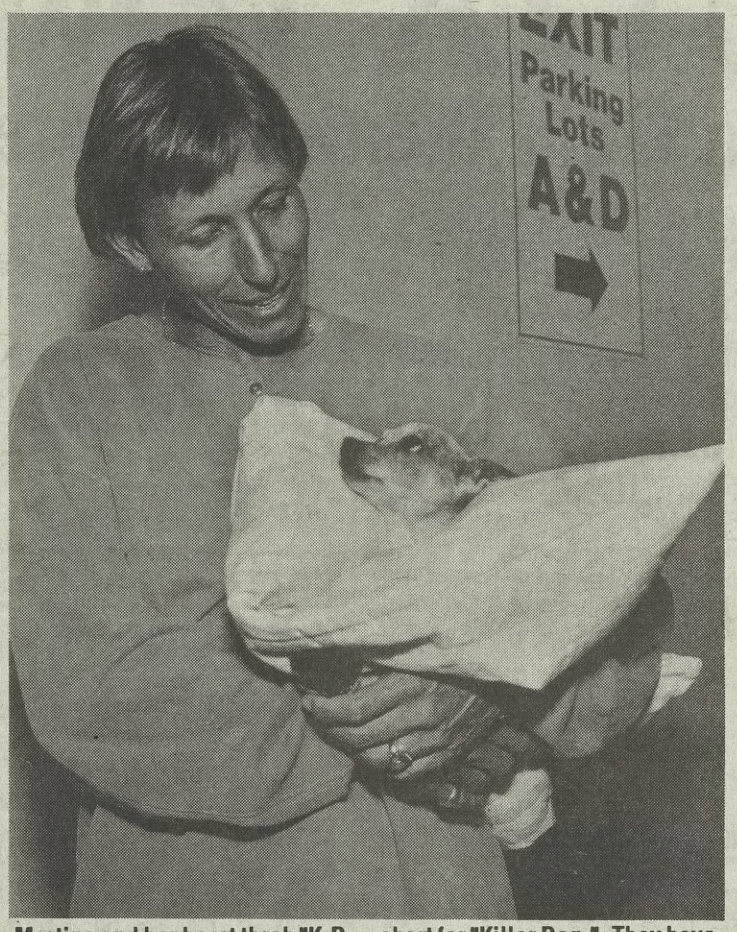
Navratilova said she doesn't resent the fact that some people seem to be more interested in her personal life than her tennis. She'd just like everyone to get their facts straight.

"I resent the inaccuracies that are out there," Navratilova said. "I've been linked with k.d. lang and Melissa Etheridge now. I had a picture taken with my sister in Rome last May and it ended up in four different magazines that read me with k.d., me with Judy Nelson, me with my latest girlfriend. It's my sister!"

> She's been cheered. She's been jeered. She's been silent. She's been loud.

"I cannot be seen with someone who is a known lesbian or even perhaps a lesbian without people assuming it's a relationship. Just because we're both gay doesn't mean we're sleeping together. That's what really annoys me -- that I have to explain what my relationship with this person is so that people don't get the wrong idea." she said, "I just feel sorry for the person I'm with. I'm sort of used to it. Whether it's a celebrity or a private person -- their life is never going to be the same."

When Navratilova retires, her life won't be the same either. She'll miss the cheers that still give her goosebumps when she's introduced. She'll miss the competition. And she'll miss those fabulous cheesecakes that Jean Bedell, and elderly woman who resembles the Western version of Mrs. Claus, bakes her whenever she's in California. That's a love affair that's been going on for 20 years.



Martina and her heart throb "K.D. -- short for "Killer Dog." They have been companions for more than 14 years.

She looks forward to having "an unstructured day." To spending more time with friends and family. To seeing everything she's missed in the last 20 years.

She'll also continue to use her high visibility to aid in the fight for gay rights. "I would like to see a more united gay front," Navratilova said. "There are too many groups, too many sub-groups -- the Asian American lesbians and the Afro-American lesbians and the Japanese Lesbians and the hearing impaired lesbians. Everybody is pulling their little cart, but we have to pull together because we're all in the same freaking boat."

"I don't know if I can make a difference, but I think just by being visible to the general public and for them to realize that I am a normal person who's rights are being denied," she said.

"One of the great things about the March, (March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, Bi Equal Rights and Liberation), is that it was such a positive atmosphere -- so peaceful and empowering. You finally knew it was OK to be gay if you ever had any doubts. It was so nice to be accepted totally by everybody."

"You know, I still get some boos or jeers or whatever. As much as the crowd may be on my side, some of them are still pulling against me because I'm gay. That shouldn't be a criteria for pulling for somebody. At the same time I get a lot of cheers because I'm gay."

When Czechoslovakian born Navratilova, who defected in 1975, opted for United States citizenship 12 years ago, this country was everything she expected it to be. It was democracy at its best. For the people and by the people. But after a while things started to change.

"It started becoming very retro under Reagan and Bush," Navratilova said. "It's pretty scary now."

"When I was growing up in Czechoslovakia there wasn't as much oppression as I was taught to believe. (I was taught) that blacks couldn't go to school, couldn't do anything. When my parents came in 1980, they were surprised that there were blacks in the country club in Dallas. It wasn't as bad as it was made out to be, but it was bad."

Navratilova, however, said she has always felt a kinship with minorities and the oppressed.

"I saw my first black when I was 10," Navratilova said. "I still remember. It was this guy and he was on the tram. I was looking at him because he was so interesting looking... I was thinking, 'Is he Czech?' I tried not to stare, but he was a special human being.

"Even before I knew I was gay, I didn't like when people talked derogatorially about gays. I'm six-years-old and I'm wondering why does no one like those people just because they love someone else. All this was very strange to me."

"My parents are prejudiced. My father told me when I was four whatever you do, don't marry a black man because you won't know what color your babies will be. I was like, 'Who cares?' I don't know where this kinship comes from -- maybe previous lives."

There's no doubt in anyone's mind that when Navratilova walks away from tennis, she'll leave a deep void. As one of her fans yelled after Navratilova dropped the first set of her match against Majoli: "Don't worry. You were always the best."

"I think there will be a big gap, just like when Chris (Evert) left," said former pro Leslie Allen, now an event manager on the Kraft Tour. "It won't be so much on the court, because there will always be someone who can fill in there. It'll be off the court. In press conferences she doesn't just speak in sound bites. Her willingness to have an opinion has done much for the sport -- that's maturity. Plus, she's one of the last players who remembers when."

When was not such a long time ago. If not for the efforts of Billie Jean King, Chris Evert and Navratilova, players like Steffi Graf, Monica Seles and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario wouldn't have the healthy bank accounts they do today. The fate of the women's tour weighs heavily on Navratilova's mind these days.

"I'm concerned about now,"

continued on page 24

getting OUTTA TOWN

NAMBLA to Fight Ousting by International Gay Group

The North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) issued a defiant statement in November condemning leaders of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) for their proposal to expel NAMBLA from ILGA's membership rolls.

The NAMBLA statement, issued Nov. 15, gives no formal answer to a separate request by ILGA's six-member secretariat that NAMBLA withdraw its membership voluntarily. But the statement hints that NAMBLA will fight efforts to expel the controversial pedophile group at ILGA's Annual World Conference, scheduled to be held in New York City in June.

Bill Andriette, a NAMBLA spokesperson, said a decision on ILGA's request for NAMBLA to withdraw its membership could come on Dec. 1, when NAMBLA's steering committee convenes in a telephone conference.

"My sense is that because of the way ILGA has handled this, it would be impossible for us to resign," Andriette said in a telephone interview.

NAMBLA's action this week appears to dash hopes by ILGA leaders that NAMBLA would spare the international gay group a messy fight at its June conference. NAMBLA's action also raises the possibility that the United Nations might revoke ILGA's recently obtained status as a consultative member of the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

An official with the U.S. Mission to the U.N. told the U.N.'s General Assembly last month that the U.S. government would push for ILGA's ouster from ECOSOC if ILGA did not take immediate steps to remove NAMBLA and other pedophile groups from its membership rolls.

continued on page 12

FBI Gets Nailed on Discrimination
Administration Moves to Protect Gays

The same day the trial began in San Francisco in which the FBI is charged with firing an agent because of his sexual orientation, Attorney General Janet Reno issued an order forbidding Justice Department agencies from discriminating against gays and lesbians.

"The department may investigate and consider any matter that would reasonably subject the applicant or employee to coercion." said Reno, "But no inference concerning susceptibility to coercion may be raised soley on the basis of ... sexual orientation of the applicant or employee."

Gay activists believe that the statement by the Attorney General was directly linked to the trial case of Frank Buttino, a 20-year FBI veteran who was fired in 1990 after his superiors found out he was homosexual.

The FBI maintains that Buttino was fired not because he is gay, but because he denied he was gay when he was first questioned about his sexual orientation.

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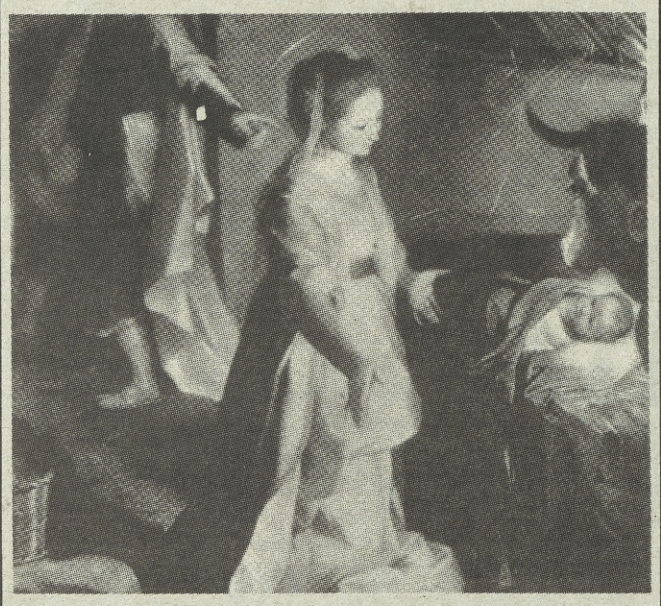

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the latest NEWS BITS

Another Win for Military Gays

Washington - a federal appeals court ruled the Pentagon violated the constitutional rights of homosexuals by banning them from service based on their orientation.

In the highest-court ruling on the issue to date, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia said the Navy had violated the equal-protection rights of Joseph Steffan by forcing him to resign from the Naval Academy after he told a superior he was homosexual.

The ruling is the fifth this year by federal courts upholding the right of homosexuals to openly serve in the military.

The court ordered the Navy to give Steffan his diploma and commission him as a Navy officer. Steffan, 29, now is a third-year law student at the University of Connecticut.

L.L. Bean Active in Far Right

Catalogue shoppers purchasing from one of the nation's oldest and most popular mail-order houses may be unaware of the political activity of Linda Lorraine Bean, granddaughter of the founder of L.L. Bean. The heir to the New England outdoor clothier and recreational gear purveyor backed a mailing campaign contained pieces showing two men embracing with warnings that passage of the ERA would lead to expansion of gay rights.

Conservative Network Starting

A New 24-hour television network promoting the conservative and religious fundamentalist agendas plans to being nationwide broadcasts Dec. 6 and promises to feature anti-gay public affairs programing on a regular basis. Called National Empowerment Television (NET) and backed by such conservative groups as the Washington, D.C.-based Free Congress Foundation, the new television network will be available to more than 3.5 million households with satellite dishes, or an estimated 9.8 million Americans.

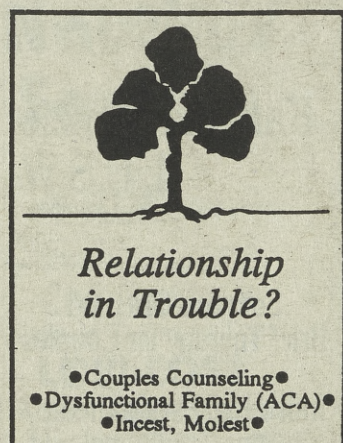
Apple Stands Strong for Rights

A Texas county has blocked Apple Computer's attempt to build a new plant because of the company's policies in support of gay and lesbian employees, even though the move may cost the county thousands of jobs.

After extensive discussions with Texas business leaders and the governor's office, the Silicon Valley company had hoped to open a plant in Williamson County that would employ 700 people and spin off hundreds of other jobs. But when Apple asked for $750,000 in tax abatements to build a customer-support center, the county commissioners effectively sunk the deal by voting 3 to 2 to deny the request.

The commissioners who voted against the deal explicitly stated their distaste for Apple's benefits policies, which include health insurance for the same-sex domestic partners of gay and lesbian employees.

"I just believe if you got moral convictions there's a time to exercise them or do away with the convictions," said Commissioner Jerry Mehevec, who spearheaded the opposition.



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NAMBLA

continued from page 10

ILGA's acceptance into ECOSOC under the category of an non-governmental organization (NGO) has been hailed by gay leaders as a major breakthrough for civil rights.

ILGA was founded in 1978 as an international federation of gay civil rights organizations. According to ILGA officials, ILGA currently consists of 350 organizations from 50 countries in virtually every continent.

NAMBLA's membership in ILGA surfaced as a public controversy in September when the newsletter, The Lambda Report, published an article disclosing that the United Nations -- with the approval of the U.S. government -- had approved ILGA's consultative status in ECOSOC. The Lambda Report noted that NAMBLA was a member of ILGA and asserted that the U.S. and the U.N., by supporting ILGA, had unwittingly backed a group with "pedophile ties."

Hans Hjerpekjon, ILGA's co-secretary general, told the ILGA secretariat meeting in New York that many of ILGA's member organizations had urged ILGA to expel NAMBLA and the Dutch pedophile group Vereniging Martijn long before the current controversy erupted last month. Hjerpekjon predicted ILGA's world conference will vote to oust the two groups despite the requirement, set by ILGA's constitution, that 80 percent of the voting members attending the conference must approve the expulsions.

In a statement released last week, after the New York meeting, the ILGA secretariat said ILGA "condemns pedophilia" and that ILGA "objects to the political aims of NAMBLA."

In its Nov. 15 statement, NAMBLA called ILGA's action "a craven and dishonest attempt to satisfy demands by the U.S. Mission to the U.N."

According to NAMBLA, ILGA's current position on NAMBLA contradicts the positions ILGA adopted on pedophilia.

DEADLINES

The editorial deadline for our next issue is January 1st. Camera-ready advertising materials are due by January 5th.

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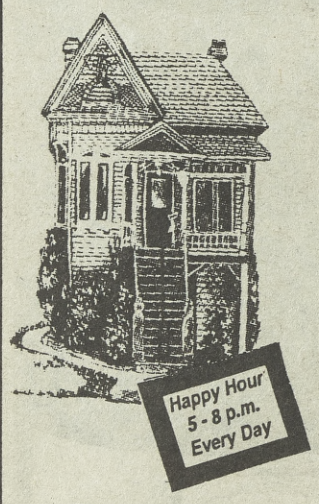

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HIV POSITIVE

Looking at Some Options in Area's Clinical Trials

by **Mike DeHart**

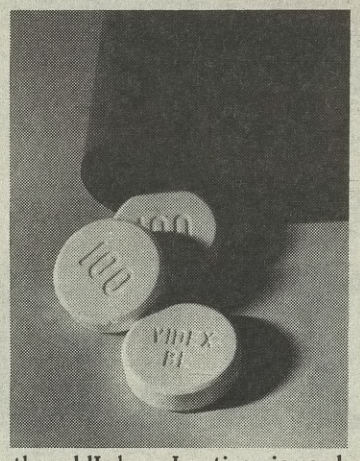
For many people with HIV/AIDS, new and experimental drugs hold the hope of life.

New compounds used to treat HIV/AIDS are tried out on small numbers of people before decisions are made on whether to approve compounds for prescription. These test groups are called "clinical trials" and are often a way to obtain a compound months or years before it is licensed for use.

This article will gave an overview of currently enrolling clinical trials in the San Francisco Bay Area. I realize that for many people living in the Sacramento Area this is an inconvenient commute, but I see death as more of an inconvenience. You may be able to enroll in some of these trials through your local physician. This is by no means a complete listing of clinical trials, it is simply an overview.

Treating HIV

ddI, Lentinan -- The trial's purpose is to find out if taking ddI along with Lentinan works better to treat HIV infection



than ddI alone. Lentinan is used as an anti-cancer and anti-HIV drug in Japan. It is extracted from Shiitake mushrooms. **Conditions required:** HIV+, CD4 count between 200 and 500, 18 to 60 years old. **Conditions not allowed:** Active OI's, use of ddI 3 months prior to trial, active injection drug use, pancreatitis, peripheral neuropathy, or KS. **Location:** ViRx, Inc. Michael Baker, Ph.D. (415) 474-2233.

d4T -- The purpose is to make d4T available to patients with HIV who cannot take AZT of ddI due to side effects, or whose HIV disease is getting worse while they are taking any of these drugs. To find out more about the safety of d4T and how well it works as a treatment for HIV infection. **Conditions required:** HIV+, ARC, or AIDS, less 300 CD4 cells, unable to take AZT or ddI or HIV is getting worse in spite of AZT or ddI, and at least 13 years old. **Conditions not allowed:** Peripheral neuropathy, cancers that are actively treated with chemotherapy. **Location:** Any health care provider can enroll eligible patients into this program by calling Bristol-Myers Squibb at 1-800-842-8036.

Liposyn LLL-2% -- The purpose is to learn if high concentrations of egg phosphatides contained in the nutritional supplement Liposyn LLL-2% can reduce the amount and activity of HIV in the blood. (Remember the experimental compound Al-721? The egg phosphatides in Liposyn III are similar to this substance.) **Conditions required:** AIDS, unintentional loss of at least 5% of usual body weight, proof that oral nutritional supplements do not help maintain weight. **Conditions not allowed:** use of other experimental drugs with activity against HIV (ddc is the exception), use of other investigational drugs through FDA-approved studies intended to boost the function of the immune system. **Location:** Jeffrey M. Aron, M.D. (415) 563-3534, NSM Research (415) 749-6440.

Chinese Herbs -- The purpose is to find out if taking Chinese medicinal herbs can help reduce the symptoms of disease and improve the overall well-being of people with HIV disease. **Conditions required:** HIV with at least two symptoms of disease, CD4 count between 200 and 500, and at least 18 years-old. **Conditions not allowed:** Taking any herbal treatment within six months before starting the study, AIDS (minimal KS is allowed, no other AIDS), may not take experimental anti-HIV drugs while on this study. Licensed anti-HIV drugs are allowed. **Location:** SFGH AIDS Research Group, Mary Payne, RN (415) 476-9296, ext. 84602.

CMV Retinitis

Oral Ganciclovir -- The purpose of this trial is to learn if taking ganciclovir capsules are as effective as taking ganciclovir by intravenous infusion for long-term maintenance treatment of CMV retinitis. **Conditions required:** HIV +, at least 13 years-old, CMV retinitis diagnosed within the past 4 months, CMV retinitis must have been treated for at least 4 weeks with ganciclovir and must be stable now. **Conditions not allowed:** CMV

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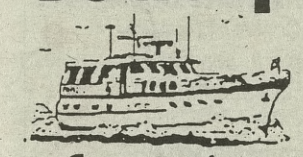
Nautilus Society



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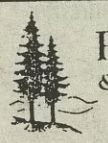

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December

10 friday

Light in the Darkness, a performance by the Sacramento Women's Chorus, St. Francis Church, 26th & K Streets, Sacramento, 8 p.m. Call (916) 424-4411 for tickets.

Looney Tunes Hall of Fame plays at The Crest Theatre, 1013 K Street. Call 44 CREST for info. **Dec. 10 - 11**

Erotic Art by Kim Wallace at the Wreck Room, 2513 Broadway, Sacramento. **Dec. 10 - Jan. 15**

Season Songs, a holiday musical revue, at Garbeau's Too, 111 K Street, Old Sacramento, CA 95814. Call (916) 985-6361 for info. **Dec. 10 - 24**

A Christmas Carol plays at Garbeau's Dinner Theatre, 12401 Folsom Boulevard. Call (916)985-6361 for info. **Dec. 10 - Jan. 2**

"Drawings For the Mimbres Series" a benefit for Hope House, an AIDS Hospice at Archival Framing's Gallery, 1729 L Street Sacramento. Call 444-9624 for info. **Dec. 10 - 23**

Big Art presents a group "Religious Art Show". Call 446-2740 for info. **Dec. 10 - Jan. 7**

Mimi LaPlant & Ken Waterstreet: New Work at the Judith Weintraub Gallery, 1723 J Street Sacramento. Call 442-3360 for info. **Dec. 10 - 31**

11 saturday

Lioness Books Holiday Fair from 10-6 at 2224 J Street, Sacramento. Call 442-4657 for info.

Alice Di Micele performs at the Blue Mango, Davis (916) 756-2616 at 9 p.m.

12 sunday

ExtravaGAPA 2 (Cultural Images), a theatrical variety show at 7 p.m at the Center for the Arts Theater at Yerba Buena Gardens. Performed by the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance, S.F. Call (415) 282-GAPA for info.

13 monday

Loveworks for Lesbian Relationships-an experimental session held at Fort Mason, San Francisco, rm. A-2, 7 -9:30 p.m. Call 415/ 572-1999 for info.

14 tuesday

The Sacramento Symphony and Chorus performs its annual "Messiah" Sing Along at 8 p.m. at The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, 1101 K Street in Sacramento.

15

Its A Wonderful Life plays at The Crest Theatre, 1013 K Street, Sacramento. Call 44-CREST For info. **Dec. 15 - 16**

New Members Exhibit at the 750 Gallery, 1727 I Street, Sacramento. Call 446-7410 for info. **Dec. 15 - Jan. 2**

Sacramento Food Bank's Twelve Nights Before Christmas at St. Joseph's Church in Clarksburg. Call 452-3663 for info. **Dec. 15 - 20**

16 thursday

The Buffalo Club's Annual Christmas Party & Benefit at 1831 S Street, Sacramento. Call 442-1087 for info.

Roller Skating Party at Foothill Skate Inn, 4700 Auburn Blvd., 8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m..

17 friday

Dexter Smith & Margret Boone, an original Performance Art Collaboration at the Matrix Art Gallery, 1725 I Street. Call 447-6209 for info.

Andra Dare, Joan Hawkins, & Gabriel Nelson perform at the Guild Theater at 8 p.m.

Red Nose Ball a benefit for the Sacramento Arts & Games Association, Tuesday Club, 27th & L Streets., Sacramento, 8 p.m. Call (916) for more information.

18 saturday

A Season of Diversity, a performance by the Sacramento Men's Chorus, St. Francis Church, 26th & K Streets, Sacramento, 8 p.m. Call (916) 444-5213 for information.

Stocking Stuffers IV, free show at U C Davis Medical Center Main Auditorium at 1 p.m. A benefit for Sacramento AIDS patients.

Reunion of Sacramento's first lesbian bar held at the original building on Soule Street in West Sacramento between 8 p.m. - 2 am. Call Cherie at 737-6139 for info.

Dykes Out Together social get together - games + food. Call Laura at 487-0554 for info.

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January

19 sunday

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Sacramento Chapter, meets at 7:30 p.m. in the new Educational Building, St. Marks United Methodist Church, 2391 St. Marks Way, Sacramento. Call 665-1050 for info.

21 tuesday

Barry Manilow performs at the Arco Arena with 100% of the proceeds to benefit Sacramento AIDS organizations. For more info call 446-7525.

22 wednesday

White Christmas plays at The Crest Theatre, 1013 K Street, Sacramento. Call 44 CREST for info.

24 friday

Christmas Party at Faces, 2000 K Street. Two tickets to see Bette Midler in concert New Year's Eve will be given away at midnight. Get your ticket 3 p.m. - midnight.

25 saturday

Merry Christmas

31 friday

New Year's Eve Ball, sponsored by the latest ISSUE, RCDC, SLCC, the Sacramento Men's Chorus and the Lambda Center. Sacramento Grand Ballroom, 629 J Street, 9 p.m. Tickets are $30 per person and are available at the Lambda Center and the Gifted Gardener. Call 448-8504 for more information.

The Buffalo Club's Gigantic New Year's Eve Party where the countdown begins at 9 p.m.! 1831 S Street. Cover is $5.

Faces Golden New Years Eve Party with a midnight money drop. Trip to Hawaii for two will be given away. 2000 K Street $8 cover.

1 saturday

"Out There" tele-vision's first all gay and lesbian comedy special plays at 12 midnight on "Comedy Central" - an all comedy network.

Campbell's Soups First Run 1994 Sacramento starts at Midnight with on site registration at 10 p.m. Proceeds benefit Big Brothers/ Big Sisters Sacramento. Call (415 0 387-2178 for info.

10 monday

Armistead Maupin's Tales of the City presented on PBS, channel 6 at 9 p.m.
Jan. 10 - 12

MONDAYS

Men's Coming Out Group at the Lambda Community Center. Call 442-0185 for more info.

Lesbian/Gay Town Council, 2nd Monday of each month. Call 448-0422 for info.

TUESDAYS

Sacramento Leather Association monthly meeting at the Wreck Room, 7 p.m. First Tuesday of the month. For info call 863-3398.

THURSDAYS

HIV/AIDS Family Support Group on the first and third Thursday at the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, 4641 Marconi Ave. For more info call 483-5691.

Women's Coming Out Group meets from 6-7:30 at the Lambda Community Center. Call 442-0185 for more details.

FRIDAYS

Poker Club, Lesbian Couples over 35. First and 3rd Friday of each month. Call K or J at 649-1182.

Youth Group at the Lambda Center, 1931 L Street, 5:45 p.m. Call 442-0185 for info.

SATURDAYS

Front Runners, a lesbian and gay running club. Call Jim at 387-8275.

Different Spokes Sacramento, a lesbian and gay cycling club. Call James at 737-0451.

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For further information call **444-5213**

the latest

ENTERTAINMENT

Music to Give, to Take, to Throw Away

by Bill Peterson

Jody Watley: "Intimacy"

Starting with the mid-tempo, "Working on a Grove," the street smart sounds of Watley's earlier work gives way to a comfortable sound of a woman in love. "Intimacy" chronicles the give and take, inherent in relationships -- /We all want love but have no answers when it comes down to make a choice/ How many times have you been to bed before you really knew the person you were sleeping with?"

Jody's sterling rendition of Stevie Wonder's "Too Shy to Say," shows her growing sophistication, while "Your Love Keeps Working On Me" and "Ecstasy," keeps Watley poised for dance hits.

"Intimacy" shows Watley growing steadily with each successive album. ⚡⚡⚡⚡

Jody Watley looking and sounding good on her new album "Intimacy."

Bette Midler- "Gypsy"

Wow! Bette is starring in a network production of "Gypsy" just in time for the holidays! The score by Sondheim and Styne along with Midler's Merman-esque singing is a sure hit with fans of the original production. And with classics like "Everything's Coming Up Roses" and "Let Me Entertain You," those who weren't fans in the past are sure to be fans in the future. ⚡⚡⚡

Pointer Sisters: "Only Sisters Can Do That"

"We have laid the ground/ For all the girls in town/ But they won't stay around" -- Several years since their last hit, Anita, Ruth and June are back to snatch some spotlight back from En Vogue and other soul girl groups!

With their harmonizing as smooth as ever, the album's opener -- "It Ain't a Man's World," and the closing "Sex, Love or Money" set the Sisters in a shiny funk setting worthy of their able competition.

"Only Sisters Can Do That" shows that there's more life left in these women! ⚡⚡⚡

Cocteau Twins: "Four Calendar Cafe"

Edging closer and closer to the mainstream, the Cocteau Twins still maintain that trademark sound which has been successfully imitated by both The Sundays and Cranberries.

In "Four Calendar Cafe," Liz Fraser's ethereal vocals become more focused, so much so that, "Theft," and "Wandering around Lost," with its lyrics: /My body is mine alone/, sounds like a pro choice statement!

Elsewhere, the tone remains very similar to the past few Cocteau's albums, with lazy drums propelling the spare yet elegant tones of Fraser's soaring voice. It's like entering the womb after a December Saturday at Downtown Plaza ⚡⚡⚡⚡

Luscious Jackson "In Search of Manny"

In the retro 70s hip-hop style of the Beastie Boys, comes Luscious Jackson with the 7 song "In Search of Manny" album that sets this band in definite groove of its own..

The foghorn sax in "Life of Leisure," coupled with the swaying rap draws the listener into an absinthe haze.

"In Search of Manny" serves as a tantalizing introduction to the undeniable charm of Luscious Jackson. ⚡⚡⚡

Various Artists: "No Alternative"

Next in line from the "Red Hot and Blue" folks comes an AIDS benefit collection featuring many of the biggies of Alternative Music -- Soundgarden, Smashing Pumpkins, Beastie Boys and Matthew Sweet.

With Soul Asylum's remake of Marvin Gaye's "Sexual Healing," plus great tracks from Buffalo Tom and Urge Overkill, "No Alternative" leaves you with no choice -- Buy It! ⚡⚡⚡

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New Albums Bring Holiday Classics to Life

by Bill Peterson

Harry Connick Jr. "When My Heart Finds Christmas"

With the standard mix of classics and some new, unfamiliar tunes, Harry delivers a diverse collection for the holidays.

Some of the most mentionable on the Christmas album is the sappy -- "The Blessed Dawn of Christmas Day" -- to the snappy new "(It Must've Been Ol') Santa Claus," with its boogie woogie backbeat and sing along chorus. The enticing "What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?" closes things up, and leaves me with my datebook open December 31st. ⚡⚡⚡

"The La Face Christmas"

From the record company that has given us Toni Braxton and TLC, L.A. Reid and Babyface present these two successes, along with other label mates on Yuletide tunes. With doo-wop harmonizing, A

Harry Connick Jr.'s new Christmas CD is a mix of new and old.

Few Good Men sing their hearts out on the opening, "Silver Bells." Unfortunately, save for Braxton's faithful rendition of "The Christmas Song" and TLC'c spunky, funky "Sleigh Ride"-- /It's lovely weather for a sleigh ride together with yo./ The remainder is run-of-the-mill holiday fare with a hip-hop flavor. ⚡⚡ 1/2

Carnie & Wendy Wilson "Hey Santa!"

Leaving cheeky Chynna on her own, the Wilson's of Wilson Phillips give us a taste of their new, rock-and roll career path... But it sounds incredibly similar to their previous, blandly homogenized work. While played and sung pleasantly, the girls just don't add any new version to the likes of "Winter Wonderland", "Silver Bells", and "Jingle Bell Rock". ⚡⚡

Bebe & Cece "First Christmas"

This song selection points out the paradox of holiday albums -- with a bunch of old favorites, the freshly penned tunes here just don't have what it takes to become perennials.

Slickly soulful, "First Christmas" will surely make nice background music for some well-mannered tree trimming parties, but hearing the beautifully, jazzy, refined "Silver Bells" leaves you wishing for a bit less slick and bit more soul on the rest of the tracks. ⚡⚡

"Hipster's Holiday"

For a lighter take on holiday classics, this collection has got the swinginest of any- Louis Armstrong's "Cool Yule" and "Zat You, Santa Claus," Earth Kitt's original "Santa Baby" and Pearl Bailey's "Five Pound Box of Money!"

To get your party off to a good start, put on "We Wanna See Santa Do the Mambo" and watch 'em go-just like a bunch of gummi-Lifesavers! ⚡⚡⚡⚡

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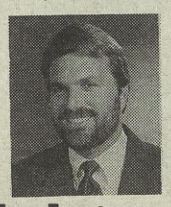

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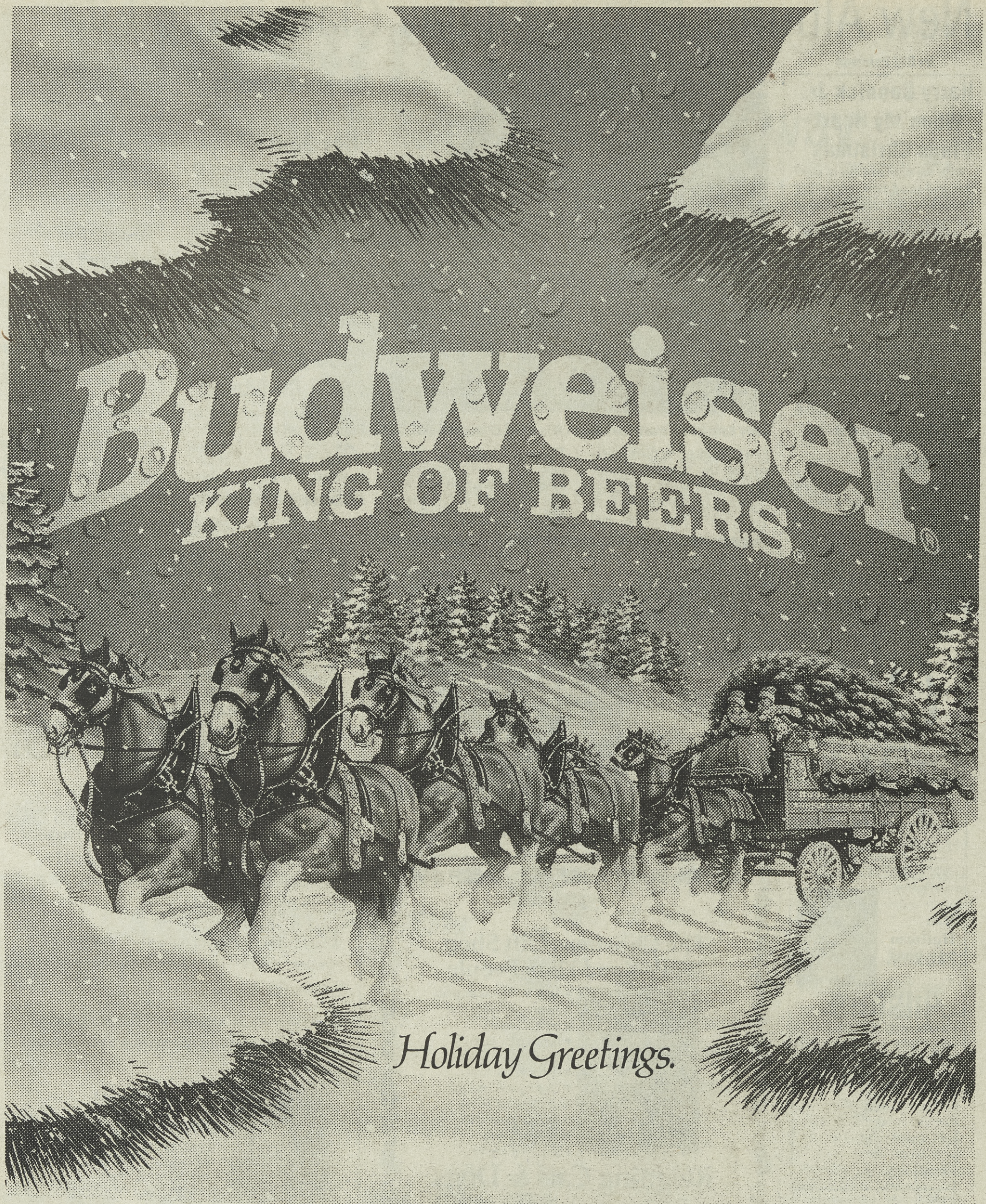

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Two Snaps Up For Addams Family Values

by **Chris Narloch**

It's rare that a sequel outstrips the original, but "Addams Family Values" is a far better movie than the 1991 installment -- in fact, it's probably the funniest film of 1993.

The difference this time out is a wonderfully witty script by gay writer Paul Rudnick that's like a warped combination of "Meatballs" and "Double Indemnity."

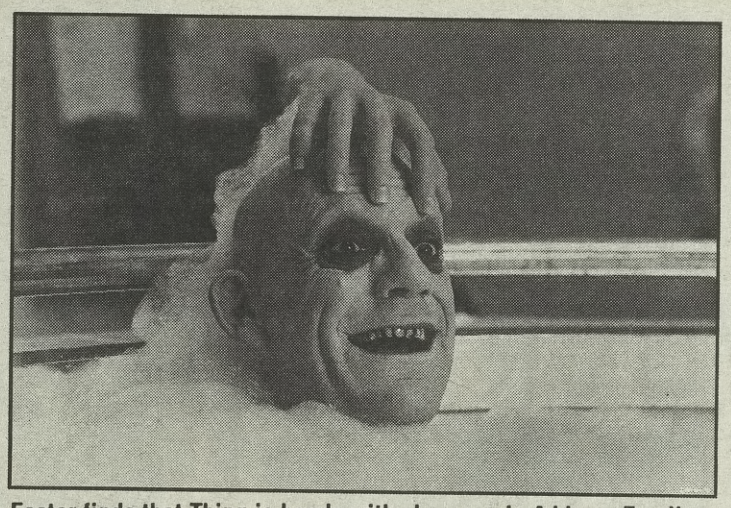
Wednesday and Pugsley get sent to camp, and a blonde sexpot marries Uncle Fester for his money and then tries to bump him off. The main plot involves a new addition to the household. This is a big improvement over number one, which had virtually no story.

The difference this time is a wonderfully witty script by gay writer Paul Rudnick

The dream cast returns from the first film, headed by Angelica Huston as Morticia, Raul Julia as Gomez and Christopher Lloyd as Feaster. New on board are Joan Cusak, terrific as a black widow bride, and Carol Kane, unrecognizable in heavy make-up as the grandmother. Best of all is the incomparable Christina Ricci, who has a deadly poker face and a classic way with a quip (after the Addams' baby is born, she tells her brother that one of the other children must die to make room.)

The baby, in fact, makes his entrance at the start of the movie, born of course, with slick black hair and a moustache just like his father (when, half way through the film, he briefly adopts blonde ringlets and rosy cheeks his parents are suitably horrified.) Even funnier is the summer camp sub-plot, the high point of which is a sequence where Wednesday and Pugsley wreak havoc in the Thanksgiving play.

In some bizarre way the Addamses provide an outlet for all the demented things an audience would like to say and do but (hopefully) keep to themselves. They're like the Brady Bunch on acid. I would welcome a new Addams movie every year, if they were all as stylish and clever as this one. ****



Fester finds that Thing is handy with shampoo in Addams Family.

"Mrs. Doubtfire"

I always knew Robin Williams had a woman inside him, and she turns out to be a very funny middle-aged nanny in his new hit comedy "Mrs. Doubtfire." This is the best mainstream drag performance since Dustin Hoffman donned hair and heels for "Tootsie." Both movies feature an unemployed performer who finds t.v. stardom via female impersonation.

In a nifty spin on Hoffman's film, Williams plays a divorcee who finds a way to spend more time with his kids after a split from wife (Sally Field) who has custody. Hence, Mrs. Doubtfire, an English nanny who looks like Julia Childs crossed with a linebacker.

Nifty make-up and Williams' unerring skill with voices bring the character to hilarious life. Costars Field and Harvey Fierstein (as our hero's brother and "cross-trainer") provide able support. This is Williams at his best - he's less manic and desperate for laughs here.

Yes, the story is sentimental and predictable, and the direction is labored. Still, Robin Williams as a woman is worth seeing if only to catch the inspired moment when he spoofs that ultimate drag queen target, Barbara Streisand. ***

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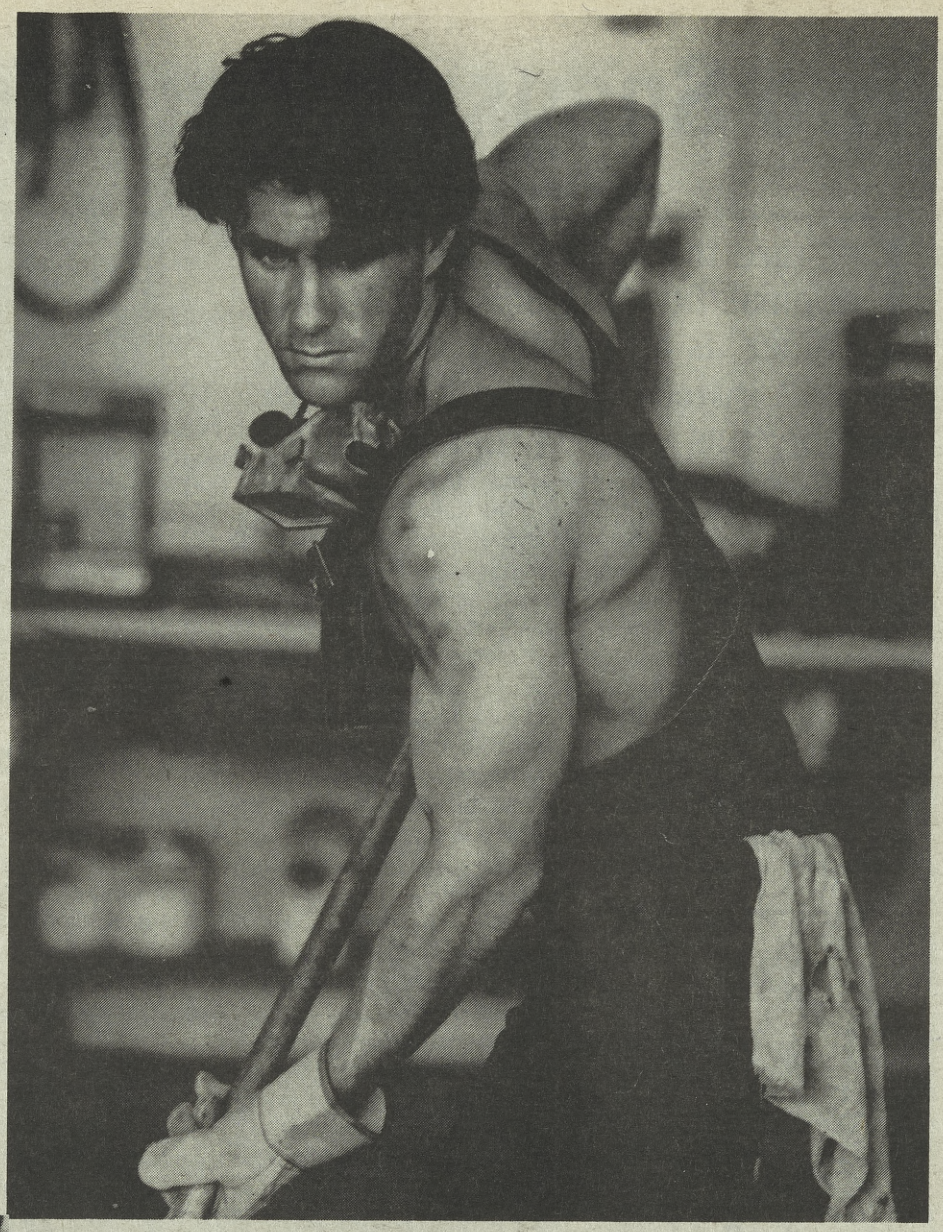

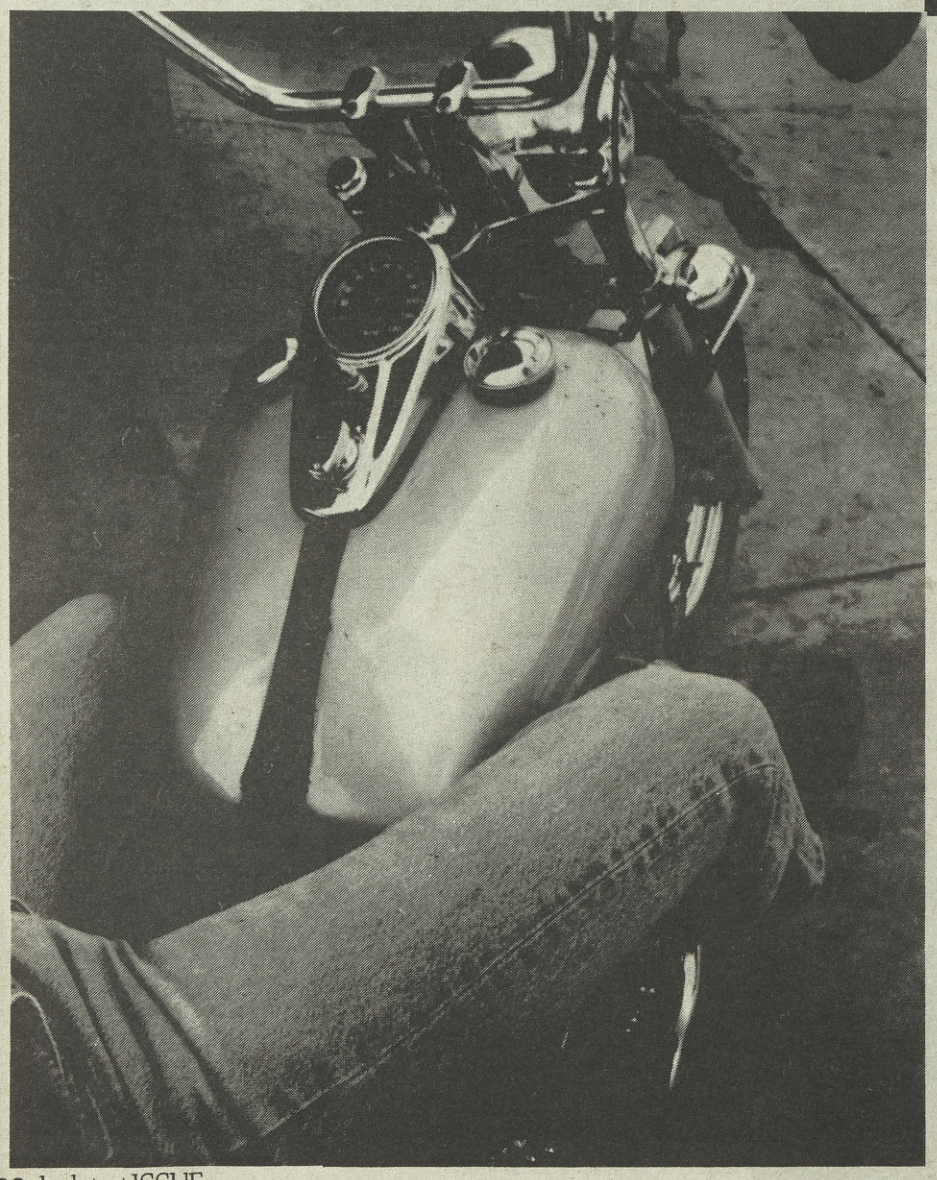

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The Gay Connection

TRIALS

continued from page 13

retinitis which was diagnosed more than 4 months ago, persistent diarrhea, nausea or abdominal pain, very low white blood cell counts. **Location:** Davies HIV Institute, Gene Mortillaro, R.N. (415) 565-6058. East Bay AIDS Center Carole Ferrell, R.N. (510) 204-1870, SFGH AIDS Research Group Ted Bush, R.N. (415) 476-9296, ext. 84098.

BW 256U87 -- The purpose is to find out if taking BW 256U87 can help prevent people with CMV infection from developing symptoms of CMV disease. **Conditions required:** HIV + ARC, Less than 100 CD4 cells, laboratory evidence of CMV infection, but without CMV disease, and at least 13 years old. **Conditions not allowed:** may not have ever taken ganciclovir, foscarnet, or any experimental anti-CMV drug, taking any drug intended to increase the function of the immune system within 30 days before starting the study. (Colony stimulating factors, such as GM-CSF are allowed.) **Location:** Kaiser, San Francisco, Susan Kirk, R.N. (415) 202-3484 (Kaiser health plan members only). SFGH AIDS Research Group Julie Calo, R.N. (415) 476-9296 ext. 84607.

Herpes

Herpes Treatment: SP-303T -- The purpose is to learn if SP-303T is effective in treating herpes outbreaks in people for whom acyclovir does not work well. **Conditions required:** AIDS, herpes outbreak which has lasted more than 30 days, and has not been helped by taking acyclovir, at least 18 years-old. **Conditions not allowed:** Allergy to citrus fruits, black currant berries, or rose hips, taking other experimental drugs, using other treatments for herpes while on this study. **Location:** SFGH Infectious Diseases Division. Julie Calo, R.N. (415) 476-9296, ext. 84607.

Karposi's Sarcoma

Velban Injections -- The purpose is to find out if it is safe to inject Velban into KS lesions may make them smaller or make them go away. **Conditions required:** AIDS, with KS in the mouth, fewer than 50 lesions. **Conditions not allowed:** injections of other drugs into the same "indicator" lesions in the past. Location: OCSF AIDS Clinic-Cecily Cosby, N.P. (415) 476-3226.

CD8 Expansion Plus IL-2 -- The purpose is to find out if giving activated CD8 cells and interleukin-2 (IL-2) is helpful in treating KS in people with AIDS. **Conditions required:** AIDS, at least one KS Lesion which has not had local treatment before, taking an approved anti-HIV drug for at least 8 weeks before starting the study, between 18 and 55 years old. **Conditions not allowed:** KS in the lungs, active infection (CMV or MAC may be allowed), any other type of cancer, any bleeding disorder, may not have chemotherapy or radiation therapy for at least 30 days prior to entering the study, active substance abuse. **Location:** SFGH AIDS Research Group, Carol Arri, R.N. (415) 476-9296, ext. 84094.

Mycobacterium Avium Complex (MAC)

TLC G-65 -- The purpose is to find out if it is safe to take TLC G-65 for treatment of MAC infection. **Conditions required:** CD4 cell count below 100, AIDS, or clinical suspicion of MAC infection, positive blood culture for MAC within eight weeks before starting the study, no other treatment for MAC infection within seven days before starting the study. **Conditions not allowed:** Allergy to eggs, kidney disease, active OL other than MAC, loss of more than 30% of body weight within the past 6 months, patients who develop MAC while taking clarithromycin to prevent MAC. **Location:** ViRx, Inc. Michael Baker, Ph.D. (415) 474-2233.

Pheumocystis Pneumonia (PCP)

PCP Treatment: 566C80 -- The purpose is to make the drug available to people with severe PCP who cannot take the standard treatments for PCP, or who do not get better with the standard treatments. **Conditions required:** Severe PCP, unable to take standard treatments not helped by any standard treatments. **Conditions not allowed:** Allergy to 566c80. **Location:** Any health care provider can enroll patients into this program by calling Burroughs Wellcome at 1-800-75-2020.

This is a partial list of currently enrolling trials in the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information on clinical trials call 1-800-874-2572 (1-800-TRIALS-A).

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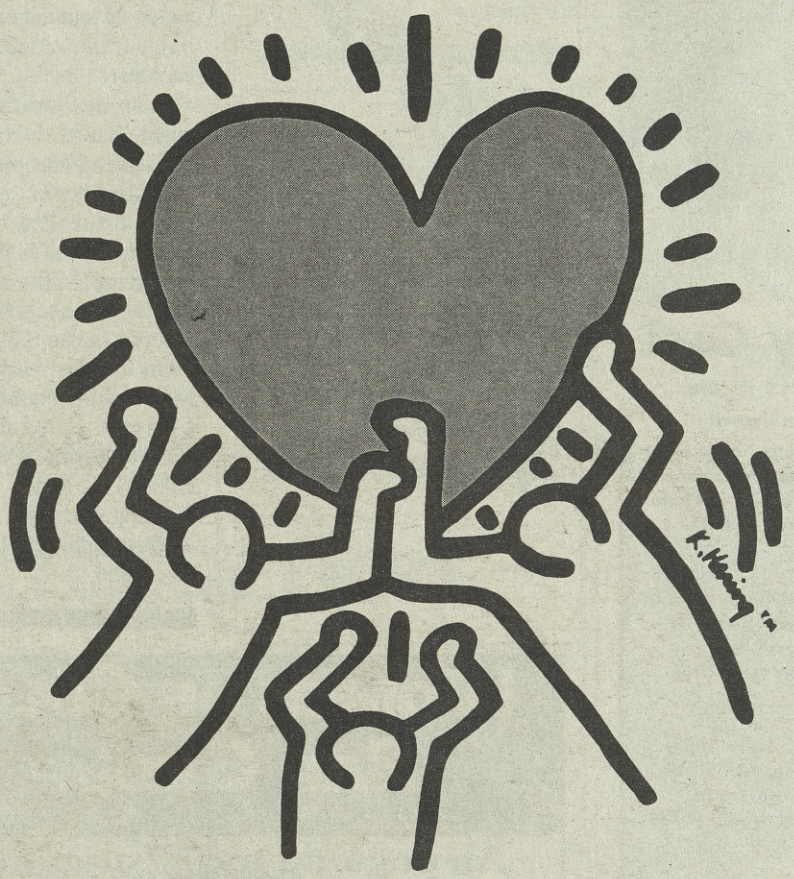

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RUMOR HAS IT

Happy ho ho homo holidays! 'Tis the season of shopping, chocolate, and fun. And fortunately, gossip never takes a vacation!

Holiday events and parties abound this year. A free show at U.C. Davis Medical Center, **SAGA's Red Nose Ball**, performances by both the **Sacramento Men's Chorus** and the **Sacramento Women's Chorus**, and **Barry Manilow's** benefit concert are among the festivies planned. So check the calendar for details, put on your bow tie, and join the fun!

And you know, it just wouldn't be Christmas without **Rob Thorbin** flitting around town in his Santa suit. He's already put in an appearance at the Lambda Center's Christmas tree lighting ceremony, and has a full schedule for the weeks to come. Rob may be Sacramento's most authentic **Santa**, sporting his own long white hair and beard, and is certainly our most enthusiastic. He's threatening to pull up his local roots and move on to a new locale for next year's holidays, so catch him in action while you can.

On Nov. 29, Faces held a comedy competition for the exalted title of Funniest Human on the Face of the Earth. Over $1,200 in prize money was awarded to the evening's winners. $500 was presented to first place winner, **Pamela Knight** and $200 to second place **Roberta Coleman**. The show was well-received and may be the beginning of something new for Sacramento.

Also new on the entertainment front is the airing of **Armistead Maupin's "Tales of the City"** beginning Jan.10 at 9 p.m. on P.B.S. **Olympia Dukakis** stars as the zany **Mrs. Mardrigal** in the televised version of the book that began as a serial in the S.F. Chronicle.

On Jan. 1 at midnight (would that technically be January 2?) **Comedy Central** will rerun **"Out There,"** a night of gay comedy recorded on **National Coming Out Day**. So all of you who set your VCRs wrong and ended up with a recording of "The Walton's Family Reunion" by mistake, you have another chance!

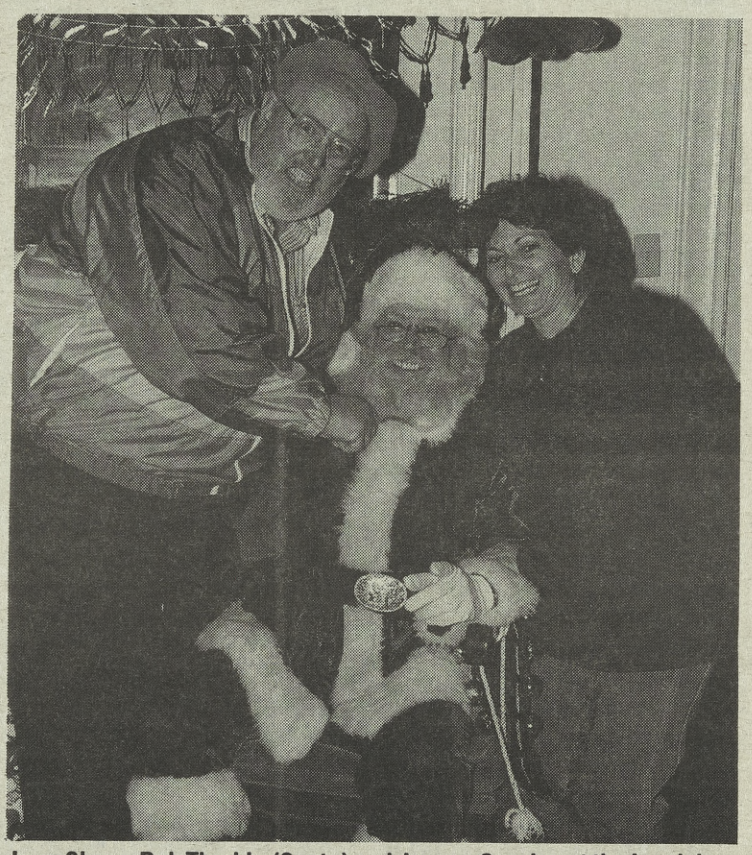
Michael Gorman, tired of having his December birthday overshadowed by Christmas, is throwing himself a big birthday bash. Guests are allowed to bring gifts as long as they don't wrap them in Christmas paper or say, "This is your birthday AND Christmas present." Word is there will be a beautifully decorated birthday tree on display. So Michael, merry... birthday!

Birthday greetings are also in order for **Michael Coulter** of **Michael's Flowers and Fantasies**. Here's hoping the next year is, well, rosy.

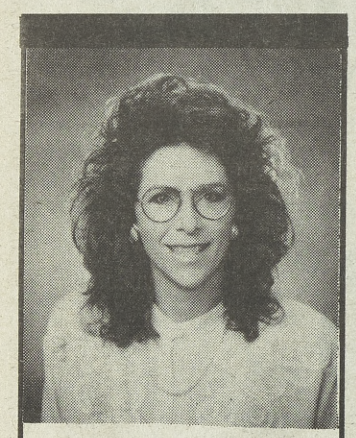
Lioness Books is planning a holiday fair for Dec. 11 and 12. The event will feature a mimi crafts fair, food, music, a palmist, and foot rubs. Don't miss it!

The **Silver Spur**, a Western dance bar on Broadway, is no

continued on page 23



Jerry Sloan, Rob Thorbin (Santa) and Joanna Cassise at the Lambda Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.



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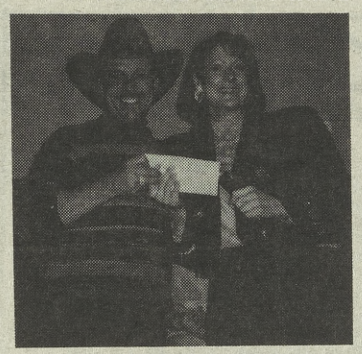
longer operating as a full time bar. The space will be available for special occasions and banquets. And **Cheyenne**, the restaurant there, is still in business -- and especially popular for brunch.

Arden Sidie and **Billy Ray Parish**, proprietors of **National Child Support Enforcement Services**, have opened a new office on J Street. Their business helps collect child support from deadbeat dads and moms. So if you need help, give them a call.

The latest ISSUE is pleased to announce that our outdoor racks are on the streets. The racks, at **Weatherstone, Lucky Cafe**, and the **Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op** are always stocked. So now you can get the latest issue of *the latest ISSUE* at any time of the day or night. Also we are proud to announce that *the latest ISSUE* is the newest member of the **Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.**

The **Lambda Center** has a job opening for a **Youth Programs Coordinator**. The job, available to a young adult who can work with limited supervision, is responsible for outreach and coordination of youth services. For more information call **Joanna** or **Craig** at 442-0185.



Terry Sidie with comedy night winner Pamela Knight.

The movie **"A Philadelphia Story"** starring **Tom Hanks** as a gay man with AIDS opens in December in a theater near you.

Members of the Sacramento Men's Chorus make thier holiday debut at the Lambda event Dec. 5

In an interview in ***The Advocate*** Hanks discusses the movie, his role, and being hit on by men in the subway. In response to one question Hanks replies, "Is homosexuality a choice or not? Well no, it's not. Because otherwise I would have debated. You know? Because I never thought, 'Hmmm, he's cute, maybe.'"

In other movie news, **"Even Cowgirls Get the Blues,"** which was due to be released last month, is being recut after failing to impress audiences at the Venice and Toronto film festivals. The sound track, with songs composed and sung by **k.d. lang**, is already available in music stores.

"Falsettos" a Tony award-winning, gay-themed Broadway musical is coming to Sacramento! The **Music Circus** production, sponsored by *the latest ISSUE*, will be staged April 19-24. Tickets are available now at the Music Circus box office, BASS outlets, and the Community Center box office. Tickets make great Christmas gifts, so buy them now!

Another suggestion for your holiday gift list is the **Lambda Letters'** entertainment books. The coupons offer hundreds of dollars in savings for the low, low price of $40. To purchase, call **Boyce Hinman** at 965-6851.

Remember last year when we told you that **Hamburger Mary's** was coming to town? Well the rights to the name have apparently been sold to **Richard Boriolo**, who plans to disclose the restaurant's eventual midtown location soon. We've heard it before. This time will it be true? Stay tuned for more...

So have you made your plans for New Year's Eve yet? The **New Year's Eve Ball**, sponsored by *the latest ISSUE* and a host of other gay organizations is sure to be a grand affair. The party, held at the **Sacramento Grand Ballroom** on J Street, promises to be the hottest bash of the year.

And to start the new year off right, plan to attend **Vannah Woolsey-What's** Breakfast Club with a Twist fundraiser at the **Western** on Jan. 2 from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. A delightful array of food, as well as the standard liquid brunch, will be available for $5. Proceeds benefit the **RCDC** and the **Lambda Community Center's AIDS Response Program.** So come on down and lift a glass for the good of the community.

To all our faithful readers (and the unfaithful ones too) Happy Holidays!

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MARTINA

continued from page 9

said Navratilova, ranked third in the world. "A lot of people are unhealthy or they don't want to play. They don't give back to the game and aren't really concerned with what's happening with the media. They aren't helping out. Either the selfishness has got to go away or too much is going to fall apart. It could fall apart. We need to get some serious sponsorship money for next year or the year after and the way the tour is right now, we don't have that much to sell."

Tour veterans Zina Garrison Jackson and Kathy Rinaldi share Navratilova's concerns.

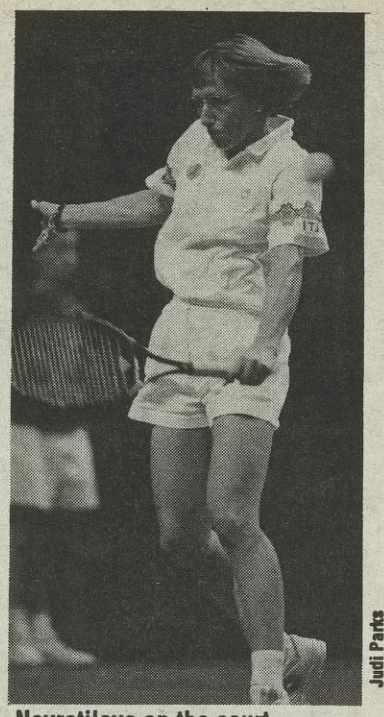
"I don't think the kids realize that there's more to tennis than playing the game," Garrison Jackson said. "They just don't realize what it takes. That's where we'll miss Martina. She understands."

Added Rinaldi: "I know I try to do what I can because I've been on the tour for a long time. I know it's important to give back. A lot of the younger players now don't really understand that because they have so much else going on in their lives. I'm not trying to make excuses for them, but I think its a lot easier for those of us who are older."

But, as Allen suggested, there's a certain contentment in Navratilova's life now. She's weathered the storms and emerged a stronger person.

"Unless the players get organized, get themselves together and say we're here to stay, we're going to give back, we're going to play more, give more interviews and give the sponsors the visibility we seek, we're going to go down. Right now getting interviews from players is like pulling teeth. They think the golden goose has always been there, but it's only been there for about 20 years and its not going to keep laying those eggs unless you feed it something."

Apparently some of Navratilova's efforts are paying off. Lindsay Davenport, 17, one of the up and coming stars on the tour said she understands that players need to do more than just play the game and that she will do all that's asked of her.



Judi Parks

Navratilova on the court.

"I don't mind doing anything," Davenport said. "I think we all owe it to Martina."

Ray Isom

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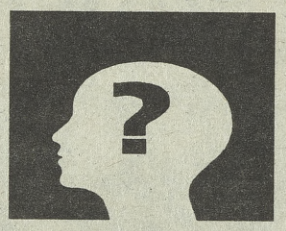

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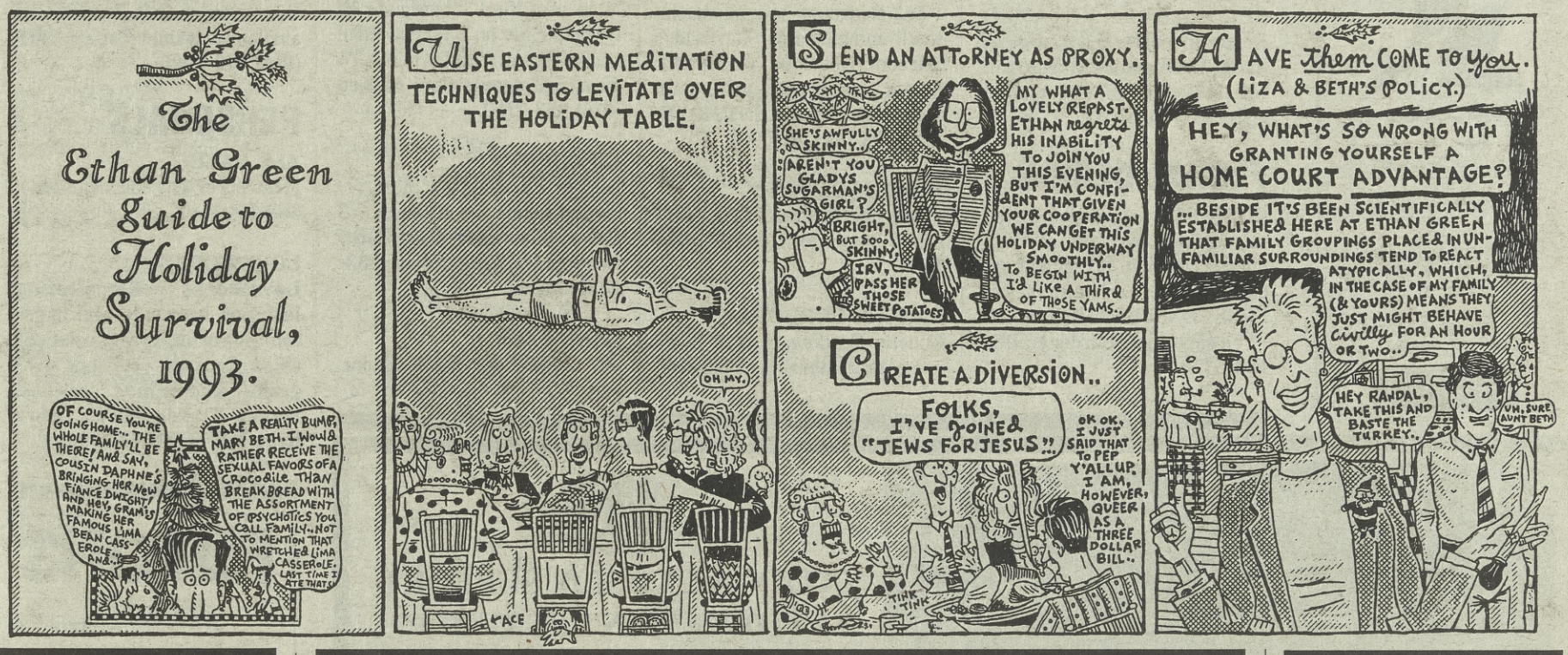
177
THIS SUCKS. I WONDER WHAT PEOPLE IN RELATIONSHIPS ARE DOING TONIGHT?
GOOD QUESTION! LET'S GO SEE!
THEY'RE SHARING THE DAY'S EXPERIENCES...
WHEN I SAID IT'S HEALTHY FOR US TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR ATTRACTIONS TO OTHER WOMEN, I MEANT TO EACH OTHER! AT LEAST YOU COULD'VE TOLD ME FIRST!
MAXINE, WHAT IS THE BIG DEAL? SO MO KNOWS I THINK SHE'S CUTE., SO WHAT? IT'S JUST A FUN LITTLE THING TO MAKE MY JOB LESS BORING!
...RELAXING OVER DINNER...
THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT IS CREAMING US WITH ANTI-GAY INITIATIVES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY! WE HAVE TO BUILD COALITIONS WITH OTHER PROGRESSIVES! THESE WHITE, FUNDAMENTALIST FASCISTS ARE WINNING VOTES FROM PEOPLE OF COLOR BY CONVINCING THEM GAYS & LESBIANS WANT "SPECIAL RIGHTS." WE HAVE SO MUCH WORK TO DO!
ELLEN, YOU'VE BEEN GOING ON LIKE THIS FOR DAYS! I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE. WILL YOU JUST SHUT UP AND EAT YOUR POT PIE?
SWANSON'S
...GROWING...
OKAY, I'D LIKE TO BEGIN WITH SOME BASIC QUESTIONS. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN TOGETHER?
THREE MONTHS.
M.S.W
AND CHANGING...
BUT YOSHI, IT'S JUST SEX. AND WE'RE ALWAYS SAFE, RIGHT?
I'M SORRY, LOIS. BUT PAULA DOESN'T LIKE IT, AND BESIDES, I WANT TO TRY THIS MONOGAMY THING.
FINE. MAYBE I'LL FINALLY LEARN TO QUIT MESSING AROUND WITH GIRLS WHO HAVEN'T FINISHED EXPERIMENTING YET.
...PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE,...
MALIKA, I CAN'T! I'VE GOTTA WORK ON MY DISSERTATION OVER CHRISTMAS. WHY DON'T YOU COME HERE?... WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SIT AROUND ALL DAY. BRING ONE OF YOUR "PROJECTS." .... I AM NOT PATRONIZING YOU! JEEZIZ, YOU'RE SO SENSITIVE!
EXPLORING INTIMACY...
GOD, NAOMI! THERE'S FLUORESCENT ORANGE MOLD GROWING ON THE WALLS IN HERE! I'D SAY IT'S TIME TO CLEAN YOUR REFRIGERATOR.
SO WHO'S STOPPING YOU?
FUNDRAISER AUCTION
WOMEN'S BODY CROCHETED GARMENT FIRMING
ANYTHING THAT MOVES
AND BONDING AROUND LIFE'S DIFFICULTIES.
TONI, I CAN'T STAND THIS SCREAMING ANY MORE. I'M GONNA GO PICK HIM UP.
WAAAH!
WHAT?
WAAAHAAAHAAAA
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU CAN'T WEAR EARPLUGS! HOW CAN YOU HEAR HIM IF SOMETHING'S REALLY WRONG?
I CAN STILL HEAR HIM, CLARICE. THEY JUST TAKE THE EDGE OFF. AND SPARE ME THE LECTURE! I WOULDN'T NEED EARPLUGS IF I WAS GETTING TEN HOURS OF PEACE AND QUIET EVERY DAY AT MY OFFICE!
Hmmm.
PRRRRRRRRR
SLURP.
LOIS'S LANGUISHING LIBIDO
PEG & JERRY'S
RRRR RRR RRR RRR


The Ethan Green Guide to Holiday Survival, 1993.
OF COURSE YOU'RE GOING HOME... THE WHOLE FAMILY'LL BE THERE! AND SAY, COUSIN DAPHNE'S BRINGING HER NEW FIANCE DWIGHT, AND HEY, GRAM'S MAKING HER FAMOUS LIMA BEAN CASSEROLE AND...
TAKE A REALITY BUMP, MARY BETH. I WOULD RATHER RECEIVE THE SEXUAL FAVORS OF A CROCODILE THAN BREAK BREAD WITH THE ASSORTMENT OF PSYCHOTICS YOU CALL FAMILY... NOT TO MENTION THAT WRETCHED LIMA CASSEROLE. LAST TIME I ATE THAT...
USE EASTERN MEDITATION TECHNIQUES TO LEVITATE OVER THE HOLIDAY TABLE.
OH MY.
ACE
SEND AN ATTORNEY AS PROXY.
SHE'S AWFULLY SKINNY..
AREN'T YOU GLADYS SUGARMAN'S GIRL?
BRIGHT, BUT SOOO SKINNY.
IRV, PASS HER THOSE SWEET POTATOES
MY WHAT A LOVELY REPAST. ETHAN regrets HIS INABILITY TO JOIN YOU THIS EVENING, BUT I'M CONFIDENT THAT GIVEN YOUR COOPERATION WE CAN GET THIS HOLIDAY UNDERWAY SMOOTHLY.. TO BEGIN WITH I'd Like A THIRD OF THOSE YAMS..
CREATE A DIVERSION..
FOLKS, I'VE JOINED "JEWS FOR JESUS"
OK OK, I JUST SAID THAT TO PEP Y'ALL UP. I AM, HOWEVER, QUEER AS A THREE DOLLAR BILL..
TINK TINK
HAVE them COME TO you. (LIZA & BETH'S POLICY.)
HEY, WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH GRANTING YOURSELF A HOME COURT ADVANTAGE?
... BESIDE IT'S BEEN SCIENTIFICALLY ESTABLISHED HERE AT ETHAN GREEN THAT FAMILY GROUPINGS PLACED IN UNFAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS TEND TO REACT ATYPICALLY, WHICH, IN THE CASE OF MY FAMILY (& YOURS) MEANS THEY JUST MIGHT BEHAVE civilly FOR AN HOUR OR TWO..
HEY RANDAL, TAKE THIS AND BASTE THE TURKEY..
UM, SURE AUNT BETH

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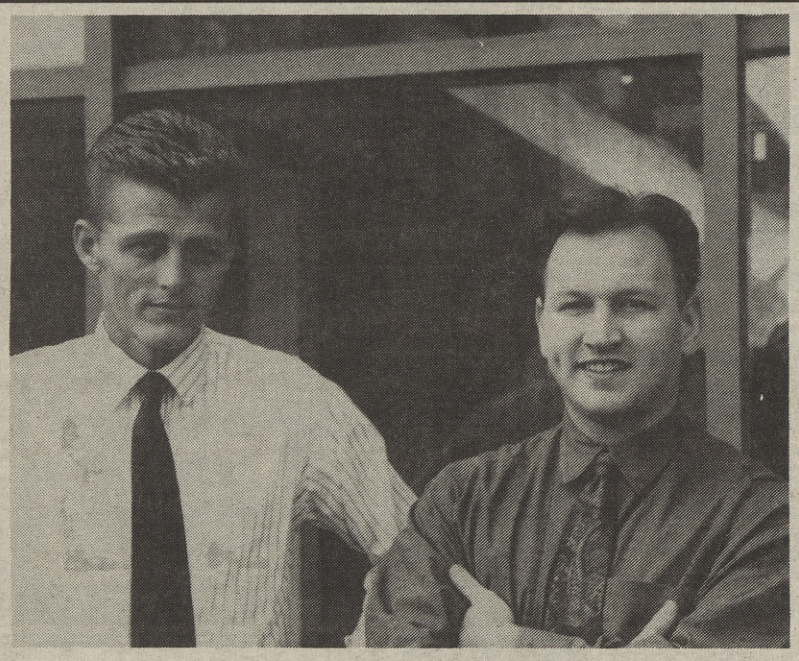
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